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### **State, Full Employment Council respond to Kansas City airline industry layoffs**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. -- The state Rapid Response Team has been activated and the Missouri Career Centers in the Kansas City area will extend office hours to help workers that will be displaced by layoffs at Trans World Airlines (TWA), Van Guard and other airlines in the Kansas City area.

Following the devastating events of September 11, the temporary mandated airport closings and sudden and large declines in the airline travel industry, American Airlines announced in September that 20,000 jobs would be cut. On Oct. 2, state and company officials had a conversation regarding the initial impact on the airline's Missouri employees. At this meeting the company announced plans to lay off 139 Kansas City maintenance overhaul base employees October 5 with additional layoffs expected to reach up to a total of 450 workers in the future.

"The shocking and tragic events of Sept. 11 have shaken consumer confidence, particularly having a devastating effect on the airline and airline-related industries," said Missouri Department of Economic Development Director Joseph L. Driskill. "As a result, we understand that layoffs are necessary for the airline companies to stay economically afloat. Unfortunately, that is affecting hundreds of Missourians. The state is well prepared to respond to the needs of our citizens and will do everything in our power to help these individuals find new employment opportunities."

The Rapid Response Team, composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, the University of Missouri Project Refocus and the Full Employment Council, responds to the needs of workers who have lost their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist TWA employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

The Rapid Response Team and Kansas City-area Missouri Career Centers will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling and resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

The Full Employment Council and DWD are working with the company to ensure that workers have extended access to these free services. Meetings will be held with workers at 9 a.m. October 8 at International Association Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAM) Local 1650 at 3050 Vivion Road in Riverside to explain how these services can help them find a new job.

The Kansas City region's Missouri Career Centers are located at 3100 North East 83<sup>rd</sup> St., Ste. 2100 and 1740 The Paseo in Kansas City and 15301 East 23<sup>rd</sup> St. in Independence.

All of these locations will immediately begin to offer extended office hours to further accommodate the needs of the dislocated TWA employees. Beginning immediately, these career centers will be open from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturdays, and beginning Oct. 15, the career centers will be open from 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., extending their hours even later if necessary, Monday through Friday.

In addition, the Missouri Division of Workforce Development and the Full Employment Council have agreed to provide local- and state-level Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds specifically for dislocated workers.

"This understanding will ensure that adequate resources are available to provide services to airline workers affected by upcoming layoffs," said Driskill.

The Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Division of Employment Security is prepared to quickly process unemployment claims filed by individual workers. Unemployed workers can file unemployment claims using the Internet at [www.ui.dolir.state.mo.us](http://www.ui.dolir.state.mo.us) at any time of the day. Individuals may file claims by telephone during working hours at 816-889-3101 or 1-800-320-2519 if outside the Kansas City area.

Employers interested in hiring TWA workers can call **1-800-877-8698**.

Since 1983 -- when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established -- more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training and re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response Team can **call DWD at (800) 877-8698 or Clyde McQueen or Steve Dempsey at the Full Employment Council at (816) 471-2330**. These individuals may also contact our Web site at [www.works.state.mo.us](http://www.works.state.mo.us) to search for job opportunities or complete an on-line resume.